

Kansas Senate/House of Representatives 2020

Response ID:37 Data

1. Candidate Information

1. Candidate Name

Jo Ella Hoyer

2. Political Party Affiliation

Democratic

3. District Number of Office Being Sought

House District 17

4. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 8517 Alden Lane

City/State/Zip : Lenexa, KS 66215

5. Phone Number

(816)248-2601

6. Email Address

joellaforkansas@gmail.com

7. Campaign Website

<https://joellaforkansas.com/>

2. Candidate Background

8. Occupation/Work History (last 5 years - 25 words or less)

Stay-at-home-Mom and Volunteer:

Vice Chair, Lenexa Planning Commission

Vice President, Rising Star PTA

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, Kansas Chapter Leader 2016-2019

9. If you are or have been affiliated with a chamber of commerce or other business organization, please list which organization(s) and any leadership positions you have held.

Lenexa Chamber of Commerce

Leadership Northeast Johnson County, Class of 2014

10. Other recent political/community experience? (25 words or less)

I have a Master's Degree in Public Administration from KU and previously worked as a Senior Analyst in the Johnson County Manager's Office.

3. Issues and Policy

11. As a candidate, what are your top three policy issues? (30 words or less)

1) Healthy economy: Kansans are resilient. We won't let communities fall behind. Pandemic response must be safe and

equitable.

2) Excellence in education

3) Sensible gun laws that save lives

12. How would you propose to balance the state budget? What specific budget cuts would you support and what revenue enhancements would you consider, if any? (100 words or less)

Unfortunately, we were already on the road to a recession prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Governor Kelly balanced the budget with an ending balance to cover for unpredictable issues. We have learned some hard lessons as we were finally edging toward a restoration of the core functions of our state government only to be faced with unprecedented budget shortfalls. We cannot let state departments and services be devastated by drastic cuts to our most essential services. I support the 2017 legislation that repealed the "march to zero" income tax and restored the third income tax bracket.

13. What are your views on state tax policy, being as specific as you can? (75 words or less)

I support a fair, balanced, and equitable tax system comprising income, sales, and property taxes as the foundation. We must repeal or reduce the food sales tax. We need a tax structure that doesn't rely too heavily on regressive taxes, and lawmakers shouldn't increase excise taxes to balance the budget. As states see their biggest budget shortfalls on record, local governments need control over their revenue. I support a repeal of the property tax lid.

14. What are your views on K-12 public education funding? (75 words or less)

Every Kansas student deserves the opportunity for a quality, well-funded education. Teachers should have access to training, and schools need the capacity to hire student support services staff and prioritize the needs of vulnerable students. Funding cuts over the years have led to larger class sizes and program cuts. Funding should reflect the changes in educational costs. I support a continued investment in education so that we can establish kindergarten readiness programs for all Kansas kids.

15. What are your priorities in the new statewide Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program? (75 words or less)

The economic prosperity of our state requires updates to our infrastructure and a continued investment in all modes of transportation. We should do our best to secure federal dollars to assist with funding to upgrade or maintain our transportation infrastructure and support tax-exempt municipal bonds to help our local governments finance infrastructure improvements. I support preservation, economic opportunity, and modernization projects; and the Broadband Infrastructure Program is an important part of this plan.

16. What types of economic development policies will you support to encourage job growth and business expansion in Kansas? (75 words or less)

I serve as Vice Chair of the Lenexa Planning Commission, and I have seen firsthand how practical and responsible economic development incentives can benefit a community. Economic and community development programs demonstrate a commitment to a positive business climate, and these incentives pay-off by creating jobs and revenue. I pledge to spend frequent time with constituents and the business community to provide a platform for input and participation.

17. What would you do to grow and develop the state's workforce? (75 words or less)

I support hands-on learning opportunities and apprenticeship programs. Lawmakers should be supportive of technical schools and increased STEAM opportunities for Kansas students such as the Shawnee Mission School District Biotechnology Program. Graduates with the Biotechnology Endorsement are able to be placed in jobs or post-secondary programs; it is beneficial to our students and businesses that we have high school graduates that are career-ready should they wish to enter the workforce directly.

18. What are your views on the state's role with respect to ensuring access and affordability of post-secondary education? (75 words or less)

I believe that the State has a role in ensuring access and affordability so that Kansas students can pursue a post-secondary education. Competitive research and higher education programs are essential. Programs like this attract a local and national network of future professionals, many of whom establish their careers in Kansas.

19. What are your views on healthcare policy and Medicaid expansion? (75 words or less)

Kansans should have access to affordable healthcare. The Medicaid rate was finally increased in 2019, but it was only increased to where the state was ten years ago. I will be an advocate for Medicaid Expansion when I take office in 2021. Kansas is missing out on billions of federal dollars for healthcare that should be used right here in Kansas. Medicaid Expansion would boost our economy and create more than 4,000 jobs.

20. What role should state government have in determining workplace employment practices and benefits offered to employees? What workplace changes, if any, would you support? (75 words or less)

Kansans should be able to support a family with their wages and benefits, and we should all be able to retire with dignity. I believe that the state government has a role in ensuring that Kansas workers have a safe work environment, and I support Paid Family Leave.

21. How control over decision-making is divided among the state legislature and local governments (including local school boards) on issues such as taxation, economic development, and education has been a matter of debate. What are your views on this issue? (75 words or less)

Local governments know their communities best. Kansas has a proud history of strong city and county management. It is important to provide local control to municipalities and schools districts over matter of taxation, economic development, and education.

22. What do you believe most distinguishes you from your opponent(s) in this race? (50 words or less)

My experience in nonpartisan local government management followed by years of gun safety advocacy in Topeka has prepared me to provide bipartisan leadership and work with colleagues to restore the core functions of our state government and earn the trust of all Kansans to unite throughout our recovery efforts.

4. Thank You!

Your response has been successfully submitted.

Candidate responses will be posted at www.VoteJoCo.com once advance voting begins.